

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 02914 100809Z
ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 HEW-06 PA-02
ICA-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /059 W
-----019130 110931Z /11
R 092006Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7669

UNCLAS OTTAWA 02914

PASS AGRIC FAS/RIESZ; FSQS/STEINMETZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, CA
SUBJECT: NO DES FOUND IN BEEF LIVERS

REF: OTTAWA 2848

1. MINAG WHELAN ANNOUNCED JUNE 7 THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAD RUN TESTS ON SAMPLES OF BEEF LIVER WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN FOUND TO CONTAIN HIGH LEVELS OF DES BY A PRIVATE TORONTO LABORATORY. NO DETECTABLE DES RESIDUES WHATSOEVER WERE FOUND IN ANY OF THE SAMPLES.

2. COPY OF PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWS:

3. "AGRICULTURE MINISTER EUGENE WHELAN ANNOUNCED JUNE 7, 1978 THAT HIS DEPARTMENT HAS FOUND NO DIETHYLSTILBESTROL (DES) RESIDUES IN BEEF LIVER SAMPLES WHICH THE CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION (CBC) HAD REPORTED WERE CONTAMINATED WITH THE GROWTH PROMOTING HORMONE.

4. 'LAST WEEK, THE CBC SAID A PRIVATE LABORATORY HAD FOUND DES IN NINE OUT OF 10 SAMPLES OF CANADIAN AND U.S. BEEF LIVER THE NETWORK HAD PURCHASED IN TORONTO STORES. THEY REPORTED LEVELS AS HIGH AS 1.94 PARTS PER MILLION (PPM)
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IN THE CANADIAN LIVER AND AS MUCH AS 3.72 PPM IN THE U.S. LIVER.' MR. WHELAN SAID.

5. 'FOLLOWING THESE REPORTS, AGRICULTURE CANADA ON FRIDAY OBTAINED SAMPLES OF THE LIVERS TESTED BY THE PRIVATE LABORATORY AND RAN THOROUGH TESTS ON THEM AT ITS ANIMAL PATHOLOGY LABORATORY IN GUELPH, ONTARIO. NO DETECTABLE

DES RESIDUES WHATSOEVER WERE FOUND IN ANY OF THE SAMPLES.'

6. "MR. WHELAN SAID HE HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN HIS DEPARTMENT'S TEST RESULTS.

7. 'THE STAFF AT THE GUELPH LABORATORY SPENT THREE YEARS DEVELOPING THEIR TESTING PROCEDURES FOR DETECTING DES. IN TESTING THE LIVER SAMPLES SUPPLIED BY THE CBC, THEY ALSO TESTED OTHER SAMPLES WITH KNOWN LEVELS OF DES ADDED. IN EVERY CASE, THE TESTS DETECTED THE DES IN THE CONTROL SAMPLES BUT FOUND NO TRACE AT ALL IN THE LIVERS SUPPLIED BY THE CBC'.

8. "MR. WHELAN SAID CANADIAN CONSUMERS NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT DES RESIDUES IN THE BEEF THEY BUY.

9. 'IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE CBC NETWORK CHOSE TO PUBLICIZE THE RESULTS OF UNOFFICIAL PRIVATE LABORATORY TESTS, BEFORE ALLOWING OUR EXPERTS THE CHANCE TO CHECK THE RESULTS'.

10. "THE USE OF DES AS A GROWTH PROMOTANT IN LIVE-STOCK HAS BEEN BANNED IN CANADA SINCE JANUARY 1, 1973. SINCE APRIL 1, 1976, AGRICULTURE CANADA IN CO-OPERATION WITH HEALTH AND WELFARE CANADA HAS TESTED MORE THAN 400 UNCLASSIFIED

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SAMPLES OF BEEF LIVER, FROM BOTH CANADIAN AND IMPORTED AMERICAN ANIMALS. ALL OF THESE WERE FOUND NEGATIVE AT THE THREE PARTS PER BILLION LEVEL.

11. "ALL SLAUGHTER CATTLE, BEEF, SLAUGHTER SHEEP AND MUTTON IMPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES (WHERE THE USE OF DES IS STILL ALLOWED) MUST BE CERTIFIED FREE OF THE CHEMICAL. THIS MEANS IT MUST COME FROM A LIVESTOCK PRODUCER WHO HAS RECEIVED A FULL EXPLANATION OF THE CANADIAN BAN ON DES FROM A U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE.

12. "IN ADDITION, A CERTIFICATE MUST BE ISSUED AT THE TIME OF MARKETING STATING THAT THE ANIMAL WAS NOT PRODUCED WITH THE USE OF DES AND NO DES HAS BEEN ADMINISTERED TO ANY OTHER ANIMALS ON THE SAME PREMISES. THIS CERTIFICATE IS SIGNED BY THE PRODUCER AND AN ACCREDITED VETERINARIAN. THE DOCUMENTATION MUST BE CHECKED BY A U.S. GOVERNMENT VETERINARIAN BEFORE THE ANIMAL OR MEAT CAN ENTER CANADA." DUEMLING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD INSPECTION, MEATS, CHEMICALS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OTTAWA02914
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780244-0277
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780676/aaaacnmx.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 27d5428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AGRE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 OTTAWA 2848
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2416152
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NO DES FOUND IN BEEF LIVERS
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/27d5428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014